Government does not host such sports events. However, as per information received from the Amateur Athletic Federation of India (AAFI), the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) has allotted the World Half Marathon 2004 to AAFI and it will be hosted in Delhi after getting the approval of the Government. Approximately 200 marathoners (Men & Women) are likely to participate in this event from all over the World.

Supporting Hockey Team for Olympic Medal

1482. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to consolidate on the recent success of the Indian hockey team; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to support the team in its quest for an Olympic medal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) It is. primarily, the responsibility of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) to take steps and make plans for promotion of the game of Hockey. The Sahara Group of Companies have agreed to sponsor the Indian hockey team till the Athens Olympic Games-2004. Apart from this, the Government is extending assistance towards foreign exposure, training/coaching of team, scientific support, nutritious diet etc. as admissible under its various schemes, as per requirement.

Assistance to Assam

1483. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial grants extended to Assam for youth affairs and sports during the last three years; year-wise; and

(b) the details of financial assistance proposed to be provided for the same during the current budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The details of